



# 1st Battalion, 5th Marines

January 2008

## From Our Sergeant Major...

### Happy New Year!

Family and friends of Battalion Landing Team 1st Battalion, 5th Marines, despite the separation, I hope your Christmas and New Years were happy. As we drive forward, during the last four weeks the big deck provided humanitarian support "Sea Angel II" for the country of Bangladesh followed by some maintenance and liberty in Singapore. After leaving Guam the Cleveland and Germantown transited to the Maldives for additional training, which they've since completed, and now have joined up with the Tarawa for

transit into the Gulf. Since the 25th of December we have been in the tax-free zone which should sound good to everyone. It was a great month for the BLT we completed two MEU Corporals Courses graduating over 70 BLT Corporals with Cpl Holzman, H&S, Honor Graduate, and Cpl Pongo, H&S, Leadership Award, taking top honors. January will bring a change in location for the BLT as we will stop in Kuwait for several weeks of training. We are ALL looking forward to getting (off) the ship and start doing what we as Marines do best.



Thank you for your continued love and support because we could not do what we do without you behind us. May his blessings keep you safe for another month until we chat again next month.

Semper Fidelis,  
Sergeant Major  
Charles L. Dillree

### Special Points Of Interest:

- \* Company Updates
- \* Pictures from Abroad
- \* Christmas Party Pictures
- \* Upcoming Family Events



## H&S COMPANY

*Season Greetings to all of the Headquarters and Service Company family.* I hope everyone had a joyous occasion during this holiday break. As we continue our voyage west the men of H&S continue to push through the daily grind of ship life and sustaining themselves for what the future holds. Unlike November, which encompassed the long journey across the Pacific, the month of December turned into a rewarding and unforgettable experience.

First off, words will never begin to express the appreciation to all of you who continue to send boxes, cards and write letters. There is no bigger morale booster then receiving mail with a card of love, thanks and support; and of course the always delicious homemade pastries. Again thank you...

We started December out with no snow... unfortunately, but did have the privilege of awarding and promoting the following Marines and Sailors:

HN Totten received the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal for exemplary service at his last duty station.

Sergeant Ronald Dorval received a Letter of Appreciation from the Commandant of the Marine Corps for his service as the Career Retention Specialist.

Hospital Corpsman Octavio Maul received a Letter of Appreciation for serving as a Color Guard, Naval

Hospital San Diego.

*The following Marine and Sailors were promoted:*  
**Staff Sergeant:**

David J. Derkits, Lawrence T. OConner, Justin A. Lehrke

**Sergeant:**

Brian J. Adams, Gary A. Bell, Aaron S. Evans, Adam C. Jimenez, Christopher J. Gonzalez

**Corporal:**

Daniel A. Armstead, Stephen T. Batty, Michael A. Fernandez, Manuel R. Arceo

**Hospital Corpsman Second Class:**

Rowell S. Salanguit

**Lance Corporal:**

Joshua M. Heintz, Jessie L. Guadarrama

**Private First Class:**

Christopher D. Nesladek

*The following Marines signed on for another four years; keeping the adage of, "The few, the proud."*

Corporal Miguel A Bautista

Sergeant Ivan Y. Mejia

Staff Sergeant Ernie Mena

As we pushed past the many island chains of the Pacific, our first stop was near the country of Bangladesh where a major humanitarian effort was taking place. Only a few of our Marine and Sailors had the opportunity to go ashore and lend a hand here, our brothers in the Air Combat Element (ACE) took the lead on this delivering food and water to many places that were not trafficable by land.

The Bangladesh stop and the many days of travel were quickly overshadowed by the highlight of the month which was the seven day liberty visit to Singapore.

This multi-cultured international business city offered a refreshing and relaxing break from the daily grind aboard ship. This was the first opportunity since leaving San Diego that everyone was able to walk on land and get a break from their sea legs. This hot, humid country offered many tours, but a majority were satisfied with numerous shopping areas and eating establishments that offered an array of international cuisine. Some places were in the higher price range, but most walked away satisfied with a little song, dance and drink.

Our Christmas was spent sailing west, still no snow, but the meal prepared by our Marines and Sailors was superb. Our current home had a hospitable environment amongst all. The ship flight deck crew prepared the flight deck for an early morning arrival or drop in by Santa Clause, but I think most slept right through it...must have been the Christmas Eve egg nog.

They still haven't let us go water skiing behind the ship, but there's always next year. Until next month, I hope your travels were safe and you have a prosperous New Year...

Semper Fi, First Sergeant Eric D. Sheline

## CHARLIE COMPANY

Greetings to all our Friends and Families,

We hope this letter finds all of our loved ones in good health and spirits after the holidays. After two months of being deployed aboard the USS Tarawa, the Marines of Charlie Company are still doing well. Much has happened since we last updated you. The Christmas season's highlight was the excellent dinner that the Navy and Marines prepared in the mess hall and Lance Corporal Christopher Falkner's superb performance in the Christmas production aboard ship.

Although we were planning to conduct bilateral training with Bangladeshi armed forces, the exercise was cancelled due to the destruction wreaked by Hurricane Sidr. The MEU was able to get involved with medical support as well as bringing food and water to the ravaged country.

We have recently left Singapore after a 7 day liberty stop where the Marines were able to get off the ship and enjoy themselves sightseeing, shopping and letting off steam. Singapore is a modern city with multiple amenities and many things for the

Marines to do. We dedicated one day to a company sports day which the Marines enjoyed immensely. This was a much deserved break from the deployment.

The Marines have been busy aboard ship conducted classes and doing physical training and generally trying to avoid "Groundhogs Day," as we prepare for sustainment training in Kuwait.

We ended the month taking a few days of some more well-deserved liberty in Bahrain.

This month we had the pleasure of awarding Lance Corporal Benjamin Paladino with a Meritorious Mast for his superb performance during the pre-deployment workup. We also awarded Sergeant Alexander Hawley a Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal for his superb performance at Stu Segall Studios. Corporals Mathew Leiv, Seth Luther, Jesus Enriquez, Eduardo Ramirez Cabrera, Uriel Estrada Prado and Andrew Shackelford graduated from Corporal Course aboard the USS Tarawa. Additional to the awards and graduations, we pro-

moted Sergeant Kevin Cameron to Staff Sergeant. We also reenlisted three Marines; Sergeant Noonan, Corporal Armenta and Lance Corporal Capangpangan.

We thank everybody for the mail and packages and the continued support. Please keep us in your thoughts and prayers as we progress through the deployment.

*March or Die*

Jay Lappe CO

Jared Ogle 1stSgt



Marines, Sailors Help Clean Singapore Beach



## BRAVO COMPANY

To the families of the Marines & Sailors aboard USS Germantown,

*Hello, I am Captain Daniel J. Thomas, the Commander of Troops for the Marines and Sailors embarked aboard the USS Germantown. We are roughly a month into the deployment and I want to take this opportunity to communicate to everyone back home the great job your Marines and Sailors are doing. During the at sea periods the Marines and Sailors are rampant aboard the ship, participating in martial arts exercises, live fire shoots, NCO classes and my personal favor-*

*ite physical training. They are indeed sustaining their physical and marksmanship ability to remain ready when called upon by our great country.*

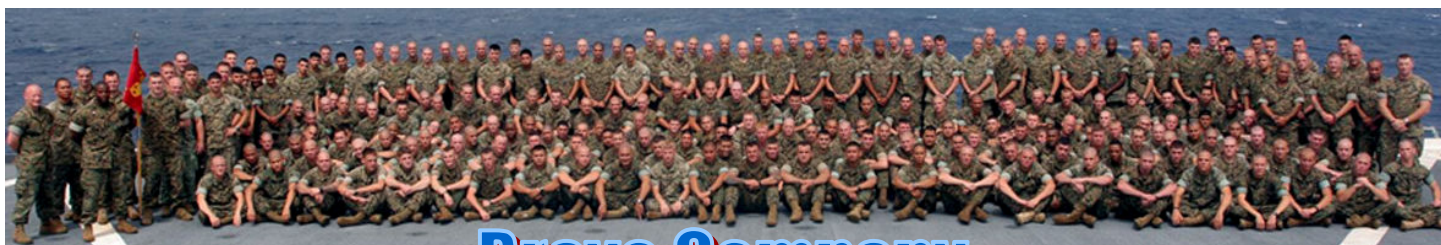
The Marines and Sailors have also distinguished themselves while ashore. They maximized the training opportunity in Guam by conducting live fire training and urban and jungle movement. During the visit to Saipan they performed with the professionalism and discipline that has come to be expected of an expeditionary force.

I want to personally thank you the families for your great support throughout the workup and

now while we are deployed. It can be difficult being away from the ones you love during the holiday season. I want you to take solace in knowing that your Marines and Sailors are the best our country has to offer, and they stand ready to accomplish any mission they are assigned. This is in large part due to the support they receive from you at home. I thank you for that support and ask that you continue to send the e-mail, moto-mail, letters and care packages.

Semper Fidelis, Capt D. J. Thomas

*The fight is won or lost far away from witnesses - behind the lines, in the gym, and out there on the road, long before I dance under those lights. ~Muhammad Ali*



## Bravo Company

Greetings from the Germantown Marines!

After leaving on the 4th, the next three weeks had the Marines settling in and getting their "sea legs" about them. We usually started our days with reveille at 0600, and going to chow or PT. The mornings and afternoons were taken with classroom training in Pashtu language instructions, selected country briefings, communications classes, and individual platoon training instructions. The Marines, at the end of the day, would often write emails to their loved ones using the Marines' internet cafe', playing video games in the game room, conducting their own Physical Training programs, or spending some quiet time reading and resting in the berthing areas.

We spent some quality training time in Guam the

last week; being able to get off the ship and stretch our legs was invaluable. The Marines concentrated on honing their marksmanship skills in BZO, EMP, and night fire, MOUT training, and jungle patrolling, and seeing how many coconuts they could consume! For many, it was the first time being outside of the United States, and the beautiful Island of Guam was a tremendous experience for us all.

After, the Marines enjoyed some well-deserved liberty in the port of Saipan. The community was truly gracious and hospitable as the Marines enjoyed seeing an island ingrained with Marine Corps History. The Marines participated in the "Adopt a Sailor/Marine" program, and the Community Outreach program, working with a local environmentalist in policing the Garapan district

of Saipan. The Marines got a chance to see the National American Memorial Park in Saipan, with an interesting museum and several monuments in the park right on the beach. The island provided the Marines with many water sports, including snorkeling, swimming, and just lounging on the beach.

This month, we have on board 4 fathers with newborns: SSgt Miller, SSgt O'Brien, Sgt Paul, and Cpl Thomas; our thoughts and prayers are with their wives and newborns.

As we depart for our next mission, all of us are thankful for our most important parts of our lives; our families back home. We keep you all in our prayers and thoughts.

VR ~ 1stSgt Chaffin



## More Germantown News...

### 2 December: promotion ceremony

Sgt Salvadore, Cpl Campbell, Cpl Arceo, Cpl Herreral Cpl Castillo, Cpl Maeda (Meritorious), Cpl Hausmann (Meritorious), LCpl Brown

### Promotions 1 Jan

PFC Quigley, LCpl Alvarez, LCpl Saunders, Sgt McNeeley

### Awards presented:

Good Conduct Medal

(SSgt Borchardt, 5<sup>th</sup> award) Cpl Bailes, Cpl Cortez

NCO of the Quarter for 1<sup>st</sup> Qtr 2008 is Cpl MedinaSanchez for the BLT

Marine of the Quarter for 1<sup>st</sup> Qtr 2008 for Company "B" is LCpl Laughlin

During Humanitarian Assistance Operations, we had four members of our team go ashore; Our BLT Navy Doctor; Lieutenant Cooke, and three CLB Marines went ashore; SSgt Labeaud, Sgt Serpas, LCpl Kern. Just before the operation ended, 6 Marines were able to go ashore and enjoy some of the local atmosphere.

### Births/other news:

SSgt Steel (LAR) and his wife had a baby daughter.  
Cpl Clark (CAAT 2) and his wife had a baby daughter.  
LCpl Ho (Bravo 3<sup>rd</sup> Plt) had a Baby Boy, Lucas

Began Cpls Crs on the 9<sup>th</sup> of December; graduation on the 29<sup>th</sup>.

Tanks/Wpns Company/1stPlt/AAV shoot on the 9<sup>th</sup> of December

Cpls Course Graduation on the 29<sup>th</sup> of December:  
Cpl Miller of AAVs was our honor grad. SNM received an NCO Sword, and a Certificate of Commendation from Co 11<sup>th</sup> MEU

Cpl Hausmann was the second place honor graduate and received a Meritorious Mast from the Co 11<sup>th</sup> MEU

Cpl McNeely Leadership award winner am; he received a Meritorious Mast from the Co 11<sup>th</sup> MEU, and a Leatherman fighting tool

Cpl Maria, Leadership award winner pm; he received a Meritorious Mast from the Co 11<sup>th</sup> MEU, and a Leatherman fighting tool

### The graduates of the Corporal Course are:

CPL ALLAN TANKS	GSE2 LANDRY
CPL ANDREOFF LAR	CPL LOPEZZAMORA BHQS
CPL BAILES BAAV	CPL LOZANO BHQS
CPL BERNARD TANKS	HM3 LUNA HBAS
CPL BILAGODY SUP	CPL ACLEAN B3RD
CPL BOARDMAN BAAV	CPL MAEDA B1ST
CPL BOUNDS BAAV	HM3 MANDUJANO B4TH
CPL CAMARGOLOZANO B2ND	CPL MARIA JR B3RD
CPL CAMPBELL BHQS	HM3 MARQUEZ
SK3 CAMPOS	CPL MARTINEZ BAAV
CPL CASTILLO BAAV	CPL MCALLISTER WHQS
CPL CUSHING LAR	CPL MCDANIEL TANKS
CPL DITTEBRAND CAAT2	HM3 MCFARLAND BHQS
CPL DONOVAN CAAT2	CPL MCINTOSH BAAV
CPL ECHEVERRY 6COM	CPL MCNEELY B3RD
CPL ECKEL B2ND	CPL MEDINASANCHEZ B2ND
CPL ELLIOTT BAAV	CPL MILLER BAAV
CPL FAN 4HQS	CPL MORALES B3RD
CPL FUDALA LAR	CPL ORTIZ B2ND
CPL GASPARD LAR	CPL PETERSON CAAT2
CPL GATES BAAV	CPL PONDER ENG
CPL GERDES TS	CPL RAMIREZ B1ST
CPL GOODWIN BAAV	CPL SANDERS MAINT
CPL GORNOWICZ JR 2GGG	CPL THOMAS LAR
CPL GRIFALDO BAAV	CPL VALENCIA CAAT2
CPL GUTIERREZ B1ST	CPL WHITNEY BAAV
CPL GUZMAN B3RD	CPL WILKIE B3RD
CPL HALM LAR	HM3 WOOD BAAV
CPL HAUSMANN B3RD	
GSM3 HEHOLT	
CPL HERRERA B2ND	
CPL HIBBS BAAV	
CPL HIESTAND BHQS	
HM3 HOLMAN TANKS	
FC3 HUNTER	
CPL KAMSTRA 6COM	
CPL KING BAAV	



# *Congratulations!*

## ALPHA COMPANY

Dear Family and Friends,

The Marines and Sailors of Alpha Company are doing well. We have been keeping busy with a variety of activities to ensure that we are prepared for whatever missions the 11<sup>th</sup> MEU may receive.

Most recently we conducted training on the island of Guam. Guam is a small territory of the United States in the same time zone as Australia, just south of Japan and east of the Philippines. It is a tropical island, so it rained 3 to 5 times a day. The island is inhabited by huge spiders that weave webs overnight and surprised us in the morning. There were also a lot of snakes on the island. We learned that the snakes were brought to the island in the mid 1940s. Since the snakes have no natural predators, their population has grown to over two million strong. Guam was once populated by exotic birds which the snakes have all but wiped out. Besides all of the rain, spiders, and snakes, we were glad to be on land, and got to enjoy some gorgeous scenery and good training.

While in Guam the company trained at Andrews Air Force Base, which is an abandoned base housing complex. The Marines rotated through several different training stations which included patrolling, convoy operations, and basic urban room clearing. We also had the opportunity to hone our skills during a machine gun live fire range. Overall it was a good experience and your loved ones did a great job.

Ship life has kept the Marines of Alpha Company busy as well. On ship the NCO's of the company have been teaching classes that variety from weapons employment to leadership. Some Marines in the company have been using the little free time they have to learn Algebra, and read books such as "Imperial Grunts." Despite the tight living conditions the company has maintained a positive attitude and is keeping busy.

A few of our Marines have distinguished themselves in these few months on ship. The following Marines have been promoted:

LCpl Zack Jongbloedunterhorst to Cpl Jongbloedunterhorst  
LCpl Kyle Gist to Cpl Gist  
LCpl Erich Burner to Cpl Burner  
LCpl Alberto MejiaMarcial to Cpl MejiaMarcial  
Cpl Christopher Gonzalez to Sgt Gonzalez  
Sgt Justin Timbs to SSgt Timbs

The following Marines have received awards while we were on ship:

LCpl McArthur – Meritorious Mast  
LCpl Moore – Meritorious Mast and Marine of the Week  
LCpl Dempsey – Meritorious Mast  
Cpl Jurca – Certificate of commendation  
LCpl Camacho – Certificate of commendation  
LCpl McClure – Certificate of commendation  
LCpl Pouchoulen – Certificate of commendation  
Cpl Stiner – Certificate of commendation  
LCpl Valenzuela – Certificate of commendation  
LCpl Burke – Certificate of commendation  
LCpl Clawson – Certificate of commendation  
Sgt Mccannon - Certificate of commendation

LCpl Balzen – Navy Achievement Medal  
Cpl Bossow – Navy Achievement Medal  
Cpl Mahovlic – Navy Achievement Medal  
Sgt Hughes – Navy Achievement Medal  
SSgt Timbs – Navy Achievement Medal

In addition, LCpl Moore was named the Marine of the week by the ships captain for his exemplary performance. These Marines make us all proud and embody the attitude that has made Alpha Company successful.

We are not sure of what the future holds for the 11<sup>th</sup> MEU or Alpha Company. Despite this uncertainty, your loved have remained focused and have preformed well. You and your loved ones have sacrificed much to defend our country. For that you all should be proud.

Being far away from you reminds the Marines of the company what is important and they think of you often. All the Marines appreciate the care packages you have sent. On behalf of the Marine of Alpha Company I would like to thank you for your support and prayers. Know that your loved ones miss you and can't wait to see you. Again, we acknowledge the sacrifices you make to support us and are truly grateful. Happy holidays.

Semper Fidelis  
Capt Ortiz and  
1stSgt Offutt



## WEAPONS CO.

Weapons Company Families,

Your Marines have been in good spirits throughout this holiday season. This is undoubtedly due to all of the support from our families back home through emails, MotoMail, and packages. Thank you for everything you do.

Throughout the month of December, we have maintained a busy schedule. In addition to the training and classes conducted on ship, we were able to make our first port visit in Singapore. Singapore is a very expensive place, so we took the opportunity to have a couple days of organized fun. One day, we had the chance to conduct some endurance training on one of the local bases. The Marines had a blast climbing cargo nets, jumping over walls, and competing against one another on the obstacle course. At the end of the day, it was nice to be outside and covered in mud.

We also had the opportunity to have a softball tournament while in port. It turns out that we have quite a bit of talent within the company, and after our intramural tournament we were able to win both of the games we played against one of our fellow units. Overall, the Marines had a great time in Singapore during training and liberty.

Once we pulled out to sea, the holidays were soon upon us. There were plenty of religious services and activities planned, and the Marines and Sailors had the opportunity to relax a little and reflect on the season. The ship had a play on Christmas Eve, and there was a karaoke event on the mess deck. It could never compare to being with our loved ones, but we made the best of what we had.

We also had our selection board for Marine of the Quarter and our very own Lance Corporal Brandon Flanagan from the 81mm Mortar Platoon was chosen to represent the Battalion.

We also had some recent additions to the Weapons Company Family. Sgt Paul from LAR had a baby girl named Leila Danielle Paul. She was born on November 30th at 2130. She has brown hair and eyes. She weighed in at 5.5 pounds and 19 inches long. Cpl Thomas from LAR had a baby boy named John Cayden Thomas. He was born on December 1st at 1328. He has red hair and blue eyes. He weighed in at 7.1 pounds and 19 inches long. SSgt Steele from LAR had a baby girl named Shyla Harley Steele. She was born on December 7th at 0938. She has brown hair and eyes. She weighed in at 6.14 pound and 19 1/4 inches long. Finally, Cpl Real from the Naval Gunfire Liaison Team had a baby girl named Mckayla Real. She was born on December 5<sup>th</sup>.

Overall, it has been a very good month and our Marines continue to perform extremely well. Thanks again for all the support.

*Semper Fi, 1stSgt Wilson*



## From Our Chaplain...

To Our Families,

On the USS GERMANTOWN, I am separated from some of our Marines on the USS TARAWA and the USS CLEVELAND. However, I would like to share with you some of the activities our Marines have had the opportunity to participate in over the holiday season.

During the holidays, we had a number of Christmas services, parties, and events. Each ship had decorations that were placed throughout the ship; Christmas trees, lights, and stockings. We also had a number of opportunities to see some Christmas movie classics along with some of the more current films. There were nights of showing movies on big screen on the flight deck which the Navy calls, "Cinema at Sea." Also, there were nights of karaoke and games. Not to mention, we also had a number of Christmas Eve and Christmas Day religious services. However, even though we have had opportunities to celebrate this time of year, we have missed our friends and loved ones back home. This time of year is one that is best enjoyed while spending time with our families. And, although that was not possible this year,

our thoughts and love for you are deeply seeded in our hearts.

As of yet, the USS GERMANTOWN has not had an opportunity for additional Community Related Projects like in Saipan. However, as many of you may know, the USS CLEVELAND had an opportunity for a community related project in Guam and the USS TARAWA participated in several while in Singapore. We hope and anticipate the possibilities of participating in similar projects again soon. It has been a blessing for many of us to give to others, especially this time of year through the holiday season.

I, along with all the Marines, would also like to thank you for the Christmas cards, gifts, and packages that many of you have sent. We were all very excited to receive these items which gave us a sense of connection to all of you back home. Along with the gifts and packages from our families, we also received Christmas cards from many elementary school students back home in the States. They were wonderful! They had within them, many short simple messages like, "Thank you for protecting our country. Stay safe. Hope you come

home soon." Although, the messages were short and simple, the impact of purpose and meaning for what your Marines are doing while away from you are priceless. What a reward to be supported and cared for.

We hope and pray that all of you are doing well. Although this has been a difficult time of year to be away from the ones we love, we think of you often. You are continuously in our prayers and we long for the time we will see you again. I ask that you continue to remember us in your prayers. Please know that we love you and miss you terribly. May God bless you all and MERRY CHRISTMAS, HAPPY HANNAKU, and HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Sincerely, Ron  
O'Dell LT, CHC,  
USN



**Marines and Sailors in Singapore on  
Community Relations Project—Dec. 2007**



## GOLF BATTERY

Hello to all of the family members. For the past month aboard ship our journey has been filled with nice days, rough seas, and sailing past a lot of land. Happy Belated Thanksgiving! We ate a turkey dinner with all of the fixings; the ship really does a great job. We had a total of five promotions effective 1 December 2007: Lance Corporal Shankar to Corporal and Privates First Class Bolanos, Lyle, and Luna-Ruiz to Lance Corporal. Lance Corporal Prusinowski was nominated for a meritorious promotion to Corporal, won the board, and was promoted on 2 December 2007. The board was very competitive, and he

did a stellar job. We are very proud of all of the Marines; they were all well deserved promotions. The Marines are performing superbly in their duties and all of you should be proud, as I know you are. We are working out all of our growing pains and starting to get into a groove. Morale is up and all of the Marines are enjoying ship life. The Tarawa has all the amenities of home: laundry, phone center, barber, computer center, and a very nice gym for everyone to work off the great food they serve at the chow hall. The USS Tarawa is like a floating city, everything is about ten minutes away. We

all wish we could be there for the holidays. All of us in Battery G wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Please be safe during the holidays and remember that everyone aboard ship enjoys hearing "MAIL CALL" and receiving a letter. If you notice any problems with pay, have any questions whatsoever, please don't hesitate to contact your Key Volunteer. Remember, all of you are important parts of this deployment, and we couldn't get through it without your support.

Semper Fidelis,  
1stSgt Jeffrey G. Monssen Battery G



**SATURDAY**

**January 26th**

*Hosted by Charlie Co.*

*Come make Valentines!*

**SATURDAY**

**February 16th**

*Hosted by Alpha Co.*

*Hearts of Carnival Fun*

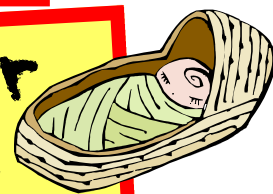
*And in March...*

**THE  
HALEWAY  
DINNER!**

*Stayed tuned for more details!*

**BABY SHOWER  
IN MARCH!**

If you are expecting a baby, or have delivered a baby during this deployment, please make sure you get in contact with your KV for more info on the baby shower!



**COMMANDING OFFICER  
1st Battalion, 5th Marines RBE  
P.O. Box 555463  
Camp Pendleton, CA 92055**



Check out: **[www.11meu.usmc.mil](http://www.11meu.usmc.mil)**

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## From Our FRO

Dear 1/5 Spouse,

I would like to advise all the spouses, that coming up on January 15, 2008 your spouse's pay will be significantly increased. Currently they are on ship and passed into a tax free zone. This should reflect on their LES. Bare in mind that this will more then likely appear on the February LES. I have provided some following information that may be helpful.

### IMMINENT DANGER PAY/ HOSTILE FIRE PAY

- Rate is \$225.00 per month.
- Member entitled to IDP/HFP for the entire month even if he/she is in the area for only one day only.

### HARDSHIP DUTY PAY

- Hardship Duty Location Pay for designated areas is payable to both officers and enlisted Marines.
- Amount for Kuwait and Iraq is \$100.00  
(DO NOT READ INTO THIS, ONLY EXAMPLE)

As a suggestion, I would advise checking the January Leave and Earning Statement on the MYPAY website for these entitlements. Don't be alarmed if its not there, wait and check the February LES. Hopefully you have access to it [www.mypay.dfas.mil/mypay.aspx](http://www.mypay.dfas.mil/mypay.aspx). Also please verify that you are NOT receiving comrats. You can find this information under the entitlements section on the LES. If you are still receiving BAS please notify your KV. Understand that 99.9% of the time the government will find out if they are overpaying a

service member. I do not want to see a No Pay Due for any of our Marines or Sailors because they continued to receive comrats throughout the deployment.

I would also advise if you are a new spouse to the corps and have not taken a LINKS class please do. It is MILITARY 101 for the spouse. They will teach you how to read an LES, as well as many other useful tips and resources here on base and any base you may travel to. It's a very good class and informative, taught by Marine spouses. On Camp Pendleton you can reach them at 760-725-6637. If you are not local, call anyways and they should be able to assist you in a LINKS class or something local to were you currently reside. Thank you.

Respectfully,  
Sgt. R. M. RANGER

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**Newsletter by: Sheline Design**